

Hudson and surrounding communities. The MAO also received a petition containing 800 signatures of local area residents supporting the casino.

Hudson resident William Cranmer's June 24, 1994, letter to Secretary Babbitt in opposition to the casino proposal also was forwarded to the MAO. Cranmer attached a report he had prepared which he believed established that the casino would be "detrimental to the nation, state, tribes and Hudson area community."⁷⁹ Sheila Harsdorf, the state representative from the assembly district containing Hudson, sent a letter dated June 21, 1994, to Secretary Babbitt and Assistant Secretary Deer, which was forwarded to the MAO. Her letter suggested that the appearance of support or neutrality by local governments was not a true reflection of community feeling.

Most of the community activists who opposed the casino were local citizens. Many, but not all, had opposed the original proposal to build the dog track. They did not limit their activities to contact with the MAO on the Hudson issue. In early summer 1994, Bieraugel delivered the petition she had developed to the Chairman of the Wisconsin Gaming Commission, John Tries, garnering media coverage in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Within a few days, the Governor's Office then contacted Bieraugel, and a meeting with the Governor was arranged through State Rep. Harsdorf.

To demonstrate that opposition to the Hudson casino proposal existed among leaders of the local community, Bieraugel brought several business leaders with her to the meeting with Gov. Thompson. Also among the group was Kenneth Tilsen, a professor at Hamline Law

⁷⁹Letter from William Cranmer to Bruce Babbitt, June 24, 1994.